

## Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 OMB-01 IO-13 RSR-01 /127 W

----- 054895

R 101245Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9810

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMCONSUL TANGIER

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 3697

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS MO

SUBJ: BOUABID TESTIFIES AT KENITRA TRIAL

REF: RABAT 3206

1. UNFP/RABAT LEADER ABDERRAHIM BOUABID, CALLED AS WITNESS BY PROSECUTION IN KENITRA TRIAL, TESTIFIED AUGUST 9. MAP VERSION ONLY PUBLIC RECORD OF WHAT HE SAID, AS THREE OPPOSITION DAILIES SEIZED AUGUST 10. TELEVISION ALSO CARRIED PARTS OF BOUABID TESTIMONY.

2. QUESTIONS OF JUDGE AND PUBLIC PROSECUTOR TO BOUABID DEALT WITH UNFP'S POSITION ON ACTIVITIES OF EXILE LEADER MOHAMED BASRI AND VIOLENCE IN GENERAL, NOT ON ANY CONNECTION WITH SPECIFIC CRIMES. ASKED TO EXPLAIN WHY UNFP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WHICH HE HEADS HAD NOT EXPELLED BASRI FROM PARTY, BOUABID SAID THAT AT TIME OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH "AUTHORITIES" LAST FALL HE HAD EXPECTED UNFP/RABAT TO BE BROUGHT INTO GOVERNMENT AND THERE TO BE GENERAL AMNESTY FOR EXILES DECLARED. LATER ATTACKS IN COUNTRYSIDE HAD LED TO UNFP SUSPENSION, AND PREVENTED HOLDING PARTY CONGRESS, AT WHICH DECISION EXPEL BASRI FROM PARTY MIGHT

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HAVE BEEN TAKEN. BOUABID SAID HE BELIEVED "MOROCCAN PROBLEMS

SHOULD BE SOLVED IN MOROCCO BY MOROCCANS." ASKED TO STATE UNFP POSITION ON ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES, BOUABID IS QUOTED BY MAP AS SAYING "MY PARTY IS SUSPENDED. PERSONALLY MY POSITION (ON PERSONS WHO ACT ILLEGALLY) IS ONE OF UNDERSTANDING." ASKED ABOUT MBAREK BOUTERKA, FORMERLY APPRENTICE LAWYER IN HIS OFFICE, WHO HAS BEEN IMPLICATED IN PLANTING BOMB IN RABAT THEATER (RABAT A-109), BOUABID SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER BOUTERKA IN FLIGHT OR HELD BY POLICE, BUT THAT HE CONSIDERED PLANTING BOMB IN THEATER "DESPICABLE" ACTION.

3. COMMENT: IT CLEAR FROM TACK TAKEN BY PROSECUTION IN QUESTIONING OF BOUABID THAT IT HAS NO EVIDENCE THAT HE WAS BEHIND ANY ILLEGAL ACTS. NEVERTHELESS, HIS TAKING POSITION THAT ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES "UNDERSTANDABLE," AND HIS REFUSAL TO EXPEL BASRI AND OTHER EXILES FROM UNFP, WILL NOT PLEASE AUTHORITIES AND MAY LEAD TO FURTHER SUSPENSION OF UNFP/RABAT. PRESENT FOUR-MONTH SUSPENSION IS SCHEDULED TO END AUGUST 17.  
PARKER

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NNN

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